

The Merchants National Bank & Trust Company

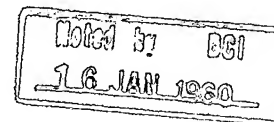
OF SYRACUSE

TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN SOUTH WARREN STREET

Syracuse 1, New York

K. Rye Kerr
Vice President

January 7, 1960



Mr. Allen Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Director:

You should know that we are extremely sorry that your schedule may have you out of the Country at the time of our May 3rd Washington dinner.

Should plans change so that you will be on hand it would please us greatly if you would attend our gathering and say a few words as you have so graciously suggested.

It is my understanding from Ann that Eleanor has recently had surgery and it is my hope that she is well on the road to full recovery at this time.

May 1960 be the best year ever for you and your family.
Very best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

K. Rye

ER

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE)

K

ER 12-58/a

24 December 1959

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Handwritten signature
Mr. H. Kaye Kerr, Vice President
Merchants National Bank & Trust Company
Syracuse, New York

Dear Kaye:

I am sorry that we did not get together on the telephone and now I have your letter of the 17th.

For some time I have been planning a trip to Europe for the latter part of April and the first two weeks of May. With all the changing of the plans with regard to the Summit and near-Summit here and there, my travel plans are always subject to change; but I fear that you should not count on me for a major appearance at your dinner. In case I am in town, I should like very much to attend and possibly I could say a few words as I know there will be many of my friends among those attending your dinner.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

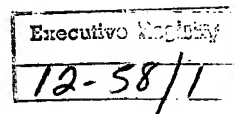
Handwritten postscript:

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Nataline Seymour and Jim and family
will be with us for Xmas.

/s/ A.W.D.

AWD/JI
1 - DCI
1 - ER/w/ basic
1 - Col. Grogan


(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE *K*)



23 December 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum recommends action in Paragraph 2.
2. It is recommended that the Director decline the speaking invitation from the Empire State Chamber of Commerce, Albany, N.Y., for their meeting in Washington, D.C., next May. (Letter of December 17 returned herewith.) Although the occasion and the locale have a degree of national significance, the dinner seems to be essentially a "State Society" type of event, and would probably not compete favorably (in terms of publicity) with other nation-wide prestige forums at which the Director has spoken in times past.
3. It is suggested that, if the Director does decline to speak, he might express a wish to attend this New York State dinner, in view of the very complimentary reference to Mr. Dulles, in Paragraph 4, as "the outstanding resident of New York State on the Washington scene," and the hint at "a special tribute" to be paid to Mr. Dulles on that occasion.


Acting Assistant to the DCI

STAT

cc: DDCI

Empire State Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

174 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALBANY 10, N. Y.

TELEPHONE 4-9166

Office of the President
H. KAYE KERR, Vice President
Merchants National Bank & Trust Company
Syracuse, New York

December 17, 1959

Mr. Allen Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear Director:

Last week Miss Irish told me that you were leaving town, which I presume is par for the course inasmuch as I envision you coming or going most of the time.

As I explained to her one of my non-paying jobs is heading up our Empire State Chamber of Commerce which represents the interests of the various types of business at the State level.

Once a year our top executives recognize and pay tribute to the residents of New York State who are in Washington assuming important Government responsibilities. At the same time we honor our Legislators and their wives as well as the people reporting Washington to the newspapers and other media throughout our State.

Because you are the outstanding resident of New York State on the Washington scene, we would like to pay you a special tribute and hope that you can honor us with your presence as speaker of the evening.

There are usually about 350 in attendance and it is a relatively short session including a cocktail party, dinner, a few introductions which we hope will be followed by your comments. This meeting is scheduled to be held in Washington at The Shoreham on May 3rd and we sincerely hope that you will be with us.

You would be interested to know that Ann is doing a good job with the John Hancock Life Insurance Company here in Syracuse. She and Eleanor were with us a few weeks ago when Eleanor was in town after a speaking engagement in Watertown.

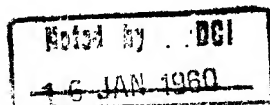
It is my hope that you and your family will have a most enjoyable Holiday Season.

Sincerely yours,

H. Kaye Kerr

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles:

For your information, I am attaching
the previous letter from Mr. Kerr and a
copy of your 24 December reply.



AAB
AAB
12 Jan. 60
(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)